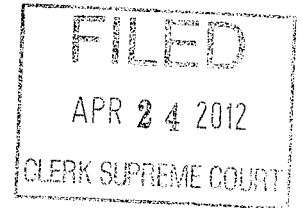


In the Supreme Court of Iowa



**In the Matter of Revision of
Interim Rules 16.306(5) and (6)
Relating to Signatures in the
Electronic Document
Management System**

Supervisory Order

On March 1, 2012, the court issued amended interim rules of Chapter 16 of the Iowa Court Rules governing the use of the electronic document management system (EDMS) across the State of Iowa. EDMS enables the electronic filing, storage, and retrieval of court documents. The continued phasing in of EDMS in additional counties allows court staff, users, and the EDMS project management team to identify and address system and procedural issues.

The EDMS Business Advisory Committee (BAC) has received feedback from governmental agency filers concerning Rule 16.306(5)(a), *Multiple signatures*. The BAC recommends an amendment to Rule 16.306(5)(a) creating a presumption of validity for signatures on documents that governmental agencies file and for other court-approved signatures even if the signature is not from a registered filer. In addition, the BAC recommends an amendment to Rule 16.306(6) to clarify the procedure for challenging the authenticity or *validity* of signatures on electronically-filed documents. These revisions have caused a slight renumbering of pages in the EDMS rules index. The current version of the Chapter 16 EDMS rules is on the Iowa Judicial Branch website at: [http://www.iowacourts.gov/Online Court Services/EDMS/](http://www.iowacourts.gov/Online_Court_Services/EDMS/).

During the continued implementation of EDMS, the court and the BAC will try to avoid piecemeal amendments to Chapter 16. Regarding this amendment to Rule 16.306(5)(a), however, the BAC believes, and the court agrees, that the volume of filings potentially affected brings a degree of urgency

to this amendment. The court anticipates that additional revisions to Chapter 16 and the "General Commentary on Electronic Filing Rules" will be necessary in the future with implementation of EDMS into more counties.

The court hereby amends the interim rules of Chapter 16 of the Iowa Court Rules governing EDMS, specifically, Rules 16.306(5)(a) and (6), **effective immediately**. Until further notice of this court, these rules shall govern the filing of all documents in cases commenced on or after the initiation of electronic filing in a particular county or in the appellate courts. In addition, these rules shall govern the filing of all documents in any cases converted to electronic format in those counties or in the appellate courts. Because the Chapter 16 EDMS rules are interim and subject to limited application, they shall not be published in the Iowa Court Rules.

Dated this 24th day of April, 2012.

The Supreme Court of Iowa

By Mark S. Cady
Mark S. Cady, Chief Justice